Augmentation of infrastructure at airports

109. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private and public sector airlines have placed orders for purchase of large number of commercial aircraft from different foreign sources;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether airports in India have all the necessary infrastructure and grounding space to meet the requirement of increased number of aircrafts; and

(d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Following airlines have aproached the Government for bulk import/acquisition of commercial aircraft in coming years:—

(i) Jet Airways — 12 (December, 2005—October, 2007)

(ii) Air Deccan — 76 (2005-06—2011-12)

(c) and (d) The permission to import/acquire aircraft is granted after due consideration of all relevant factors including infrastructure and availability of night parking bays at the relevant airports. In any case, the Airports Authority of India/other airport operators undertake development programmes, from time to time, depending upon airlines requirements etc.

Creation of slot pool for new airlines

110. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to create a "slot pool" for new airlines entering into the sector looking at the unprecedented rise in air traffic and related congestion at airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) in what manner the new system to cater for a single-window clearance would be handled by airport operators; and

(d) how the proposed move would help to create a level-playing field between the public sector airlines and the private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to promote entry of new airlines in slots in accordance with IATA guidelines, it has been decided to create a 'slot pool' of available slots after allocating slots to airlines on the basis of historical rights at the time of coordination of slots for the new season. 50% of left over slots are to be allocated to new entrants airlines. In case, new entrants are less than 50%, then the same could be considered for allocation to other airlines.

(c) The Airport Operator/Slot Allocation Committee will deal with allocation of slots at Greenfield airports and AAI airports, respectively.

(d) The slot allocation policy ensures level playing field for public and private sector as it is non-discriminatory and the airport operator is expected to implement the slot allocation policy in fair and equitable manner.

Upgradation of Rajasansi Airport

111. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to upgrade the Rajasansi Amritsar Airport into an ultra-modern airport;

(b) whether it is a fact that the work thereon has been held up, if so, the reasons therefor and at what stage it has been held up; and

(c) the progress made thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In one of the project review meetings, it was pointed out that for better aesthetics, ambience and overall view to present modern day design dynamism of aviation industry, the proposed design should be improved. Some of the activities in central concourse and departure terminal were temporarily suspended for 2 to 3 months. A new design of the terminal has been developed internally by Airports Authority of India (AAI). The construction work has since been resumed and is likely to be completed by October, 2005. However, a portion of the Terminal Building is proposed